GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3796
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2004
OIL AND NATURAL GAS IN WEST BENGAL
Chakraborty Shri Ajay

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government is conducting surveys to detect source of oil and natural gas in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the exploration is extended to area of Sundarbans;

(d) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey to know that whether habitat of Sundarbans will be distrubed or not; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.(ONGC) is conducting exploration for hydrocarbons in West Bengal.

ONGC, presently, holds one onland Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) Block, i.e., Contai where it plans to carry out seismic surveys. During 2003-04 ONGC drilled one exploratory well in this block which proved to be deficient in commercial quantities of hydrocarbons. ONGC also holds an offshore block (NEC-26) south of the Sundarbans.

(c): ONGC's present exploration activites do not extend to the Sunderbans area. However, the offshore block NEC-26 where exploration is being carried out, is located south of the Sundarbans.

(d) & (e): Question does not arise.